

## Ministry: Non-medical masks gazetted to ensure compliance with safety standards

By Teh Athira Yusof - April 5, 2022 @ 12:39pm



(Pic for illustration purposes) Manufacturers and importers of non-medical face masks are required to apply for MS Sirim certification and marking from Sirim QAS International Sdn Bhd as the authority appointed by the ministry. - NSTP/HASRIYASYAH SABUDIN

KUALA LUMPUR: Non-medical masks were gazetted under the Trade Descriptions (Certification and Marking) Order, under the Trade Descriptions Act 2011, yesterday.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry in a statement today said the measure was to ensure non-medical manufacturers and importers of masks complied with the set safety standards.

It said manufacturers and importers of non-medical face masks are required to apply for MS Sirim certification and marking from Sirim QAS International Sdn Bhd as the authority appointed by the ministry.

"The MS Sirim markings must be placed on the box or package that are easily visible to consumers.

"The MS Sirim markings on the non-medical masks would ensure it has fulfilled the safety standards; are good quality and safe to be used," it said.

The ministry said the order will take effect on July 4.

The ministry will be taking enforcement action against manufacturers or importers who failed to comply with the order.

"For companies, they will be facing fines up to RM200,000. For a second or subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding RM500,000.

"Individuals will be facing fines up to RM100,000 or prison sentences not exceeding three years or both.

"For a second or subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding RM250,000 or imprisonment no more than five years or both," it said.

With the gazette enforced, the ministry hopes the issue of dumping of non-medical masks of poor quality in the market will be resolved with compliance with standards by manufacturers and importers.